



STATE OF IDAHO

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor
CELIA R. GOULD
Director

TO: Idaho County Extension Educators

FROM: Lloyd Knight, Administrator
Division of Plant Industries

DATE: April 23, 2009

SUBJECT: 2009 ISDA Grasshopper/Mormon Cricket Program

Introduction

Grasshoppers and Mormon crickets continue to be one of the most serious pest problems in Idaho rangelands and adjacent croplands. Based on the 2007 and 2008 surveys, Idaho has the potential to experience outbreaks in 2009 in a wider area of the state than in 2008. The management and the timely control of grasshopper and cricket populations are high priorities for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and our cooperators at USDA, APHIS.

Background

Sixty-four percent of Idaho lands are administered by the Federal Government and 43% percent of the state (21.8 million acres) is classified as rangelands. BLM administers 11.8 million acres in Idaho, much of it prime grasshopper and cricket habitat. There is a significant interface of grasshopper and cricket habitat in public trust that borders private rangeland and irrigated cropland in the state.

Mormon crickets and grasshoppers (primarily about six species) are cyclical economic pest problems particularly in southern Idaho. In 2008 the number of complaints for Mormon crickets declined and the 2008 complaints for grasshoppers significantly increased compared to 2007. The grasshopper complaints actually extended further north into Benewah and Latah counties. The 2008 complaints for Mormon crickets continued in southwestern Idaho and the outbreak in Washington County appears to have increased over the 2007 level. In 2008, new complaints for grasshoppers occurred in Kootenai County with major infestations occurring in Latah and Washington Counties.

In 2008, USDA, APHIS, treated 1,700 acres of federal land with bait and 3,570 acres with Dimilin 2L to control grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks. ISDA treated 194 acres with bait and 1,592 acres with Malathion ULV to control grasshopper and Mormon cricket outbreaks. In addition, ISDA distributed 247,838 pounds of 5% carbaryl bait to over 400 private landowners in 27 counties. The bait distribution by ISDA amounted to over a \$158,616 investment and \$14,726 in a cost share projects for a \$173,342 investment to help our farmers and ranchers fight the insect infestations.

2009 ISDA Program Policy

➤ **Our cost share program in 2009 will again have two options:**

- Large organized blocks of 1,000 acres or more with private landowner(s) will be eligible for a fifty (50%) percent ISDA and fifty (50%) percent landowner(s) cost share treatment project. ISDA or a cooperating government agency will organize the cost share project(s) for these treatments. All private landowners must submit a completed Form 1, Request for Evaluation, to ISDA prior to participating in a cost share project.

Cost share treatment areas of less than 1,000 acres will be organized by the local landowner(s) and at the fifty (50%) percent cost arrangement as given above. No cost share treatment will be considered that is less than 320 contiguous acres. A government agency must confirm that the land within the treatment area has an infestation of crickets or grasshoppers above the threshold of concern for crop damages. An applicator employed by the local landowner(s) must be an ISDA registered and approved applicator with a current Professional Applicator License issued by ISDA.

ISDA will determine the pesticide and application rate used for any cost share project.

- Farmers and ranchers with infestations will still have the option of receiving carbaryl bait. The landowner will take full responsibility for labor costs, proper application and storage of the bait. No bait will be given to a private landowner for an area of less than five (5) acres or an area of five (5) acres or more that is not used for some type of agricultural income. All private landowners receiving bait must submit a completed Form 1, Request for Evaluation, and an ISDA bait form prior to receiving bait.
- Landowners participating in cost sharing applications, or who receive bait, will be required to comply with all label restrictions and requirements as well as comply with the Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation Law; and any other applicable state, federal or local laws. This responsibility also includes strictly following the insecticide label, including proper calibration of application equipment, following all environmental precautions, and properly disposing of the empty bait bags.
- ISDA has the responsibility and the authority to investigate any alleged pesticide misuse, particularly in regards to carbaryl bait applications, and take enforcement action when appropriate. ISDA Ag Resources staff may be called in to oversee applications of ISDA cost share projects.
- Adequate oversight of the pest suppression program is an expectation of the ISDA administration and the state legislature. Failure of participants and cooperators to submit the proper forms such as: request for evaluation, cost share application, no spray request, and/or bait distribution record, as required by ISDA, may result in the loss of eligibility to participate in the program or to receive financial assistance.

2009 Contact Information & Complaint Forms

Infestations on all Federal Lands in Idaho

If your infestation is on BLM, USFS or
other Federal Lands

Use this number
USDA APHIS PPQ Office
Twin Falls, ID

Voice: 208-733-5119
Fax: 208-734-7863

Infestations on State or Private Lands

If your infestation is in one of these
regions or counties:

SE Idaho

Bannock Bear Lake, Bingham, Blaine
Bonneville, Camas, Caribou, Cassia,
Franklin, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka,
Oneida, Twin Falls

Voice: 208-733-5119
Fax: 208-734-7863

SW Idaho

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore,
Gem, Gooding, Owyhee, Payette or
Washington

Voice: 208-332-8620
Fax: 208-334-2283

North Idaho

Benewah and North:
Voice 208-245-2422

Latah: Voice 208-883-2267

Nez Perce, Clearwater (north of the
North Fork of the Clearwater River)

Voice: 208-799-3096
Fax: 208-799-3054

Lewis, Idaho, Clearwater (south of the
North Fork of the Clearwater River):

Voice: 208-937-2311
Fax: 208-937-9238

We will continue to work cooperatively with counties, extension educators and our federal partners, USDA APHIS.

The Benewah, Latah and Nez Perce County Extension offices have agreed to be contact points for private landowners in northern Idaho. In addition, we will have a field scout assigned to northern Idaho to work with the counties, as needed, that are receiving calls from private landowners.

We will be glad to send our staff to special grower/rancher informational meetings in the impacted counties, if requested, to report on the program procedures and cost share options.

Attached is our statewide grasshopper/Mormon cricket form requesting help with an infestation. This single form will be use for all initial calls for infestations on federal, state or private lands. Submission instructions are on the form.

Our goal is to serve impacted landowners and encourage judicious use of effective insecticides, while protecting pollinators, non-target species and sensitive environments.

You can obtain more information at the ISDA website, www.agri.idaho.gov. Go to the Grasshopper/Mormon cricket links for further details.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the 2009 program, please don't hesitate to contact Dick Lawson or Ben Simko at 208- 332-8620 or Garry West in our Twin Falls office at 208-736-2195

cc: Brian Marschman, USDA APHIS PPQ
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